



Stool

Not on display

Title/Description: Stool

Born: 1800 - 1899

Object Type: Implement

Materials: Wood

Measurements: h. 420 x w. 420 x d. 213 mm

Accession Number: 190

Historic Period: 19th century

Production Place: Atiu, Cook Islands, Oceania, Pacific

Credit Line: Donated by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1973

Polynesian houses were simply furnished, usually with layers of soft pandanus-leaf matting covering the floor, bark cloth bedding and perhaps a wood or bamboo pillow for the use of senior members of the household. In central Polynesia (Society Is., Austral Is., Cook Is.) low stools of various types were

used by chiefs and others of high status.

On Atiu Island the stool form achieved an elegant simplicity. Carved from a solid block of *tamanu* (*Callophyllum inophyllum*), the slightly flaring rectangular seat is supported on four curving legs with heart-shaped feet. The speciality of Atiu craftsmen (Buck, 1944: 48), these stools circulated by exchange to other islands in the group.

Steven Hooper, 1997

Entry taken from *Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Collection, Vol. 2: Pacific, African and Native North American Art*, edited by Steven Hooper (Yale University Press, 1997) p. 21.

Provenance

Acquired by the Sainsbury Family in 1968. Donated to the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia in 1973 as part of the original gift.
